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IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for forming a fuel cell component comprising:

depositing a hydroxide or [[a]] oxyhydroxide form of said component; and

hydrothermally dehydrating said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said component;

wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said component establishes a grain structure of said component.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising firing said fuel cell component to an operating temperature of a fuel cell to fix a disposition of said fuel cell component.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said fuel cell comprises a solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC).

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said fuel cell component comprises an anode.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said fuel cell component comprises an electrolyte.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said fuel cell component comprises a cathode.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said fuel cell component comprises an anode, an electrolyte, and a cathode coupled together.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said fuel cell component is performed simultaneously on said anode, said electrolyte, and said cathode.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said fuel cell component is performed individually on each of said anode, said electrolyte, and said cathode.

10. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component is deposited on a low temperature support structure.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said low temperature support structure comprises a fuel manifold.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component is deposited on said low temperature support structure according to a screen printing process.

13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component is deposited on said low temperature support structure according to a tape casting process.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component is deposited on said low temperature support structure according to a doctor blade process.

15. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component is deposited on said low temperature support structure according to a spin-on process.

16. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component is deposited on said low temperature support structure according to a colloidal spray deposition process.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component comprises:

heating said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component; and

providing a high background pressure of water;

wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component both dissolves and recrystallizes said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said fuel cell component.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, further comprising introducing a potential of Hydrogen (pH) control into said hydrothermal dehydration process.

19-50. (cancelled)

51. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising depositing said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide on a substrate comprising a fuel manifold and then performing said hydrothermally dehydrating of said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

52. (new) The method of claim 51, further comprising filling trenches of said manifold with a sacrificial material during formation of said component on said substrate.

53. (new) The method of claim 52, further comprising removing said sacrificial material from said trenches following formation of said component on said substrate.

54. (new) A method for forming a fuel cell component comprising:

depositing a hydroxide or an oxyhydroxide in a form of said component; and

hydrothermally dehydrating said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide form of said component.

55. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said component is a fuel cell anode.

56. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said component is a fuel cell cathode.

57. (new) The method of claim 54 further comprising depositing said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide on a substrate comprising a fuel manifold and then performing said hydrothermally dehydrating of said hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

58. (new) The method of claim 57, further comprising:

filling trenches of said manifold with a sacrificial material during formation of said component on said substrate; and

removing said sacrificial material from said trenches following formation of said component on said substrate.

59. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said fuel cell component comprises an anode, an electrolyte, and a cathode coupled together.

60. (new) The method of claim 59, wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said fuel cell component is performed simultaneously on said anode, said electrolyte, and said cathode.

61. (new) The method of claim 59, wherein said hydrothermally dehydrating said fuel cell component is performed individually on each of said anode, said electrolyte, and said cathode.